

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

2018-2019 (Volume 106)

The Echo

5-10-2019

The Echo: May 10, 2019

Taylor University

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The Echo

YOU ARE THE VOICE. WE ARE THE ECHO.

SINCE 1913

WEEKLY
EDITION

Meet the athlete
of the week
Page 10

Poetry and art
collaboration
Page 6

VOLUME 106, ISSUE 24

FRIDAY/THURSDAY, MAY 10–MAY 16, 2019

THEECHONEWS.COM

HEADLINES

WRITING STUDENTS TAKE ON HIGH SCHOOL

Five professional writing students
teach high schoolers Page 3

RINGS BY SPRING

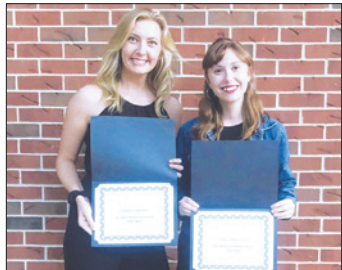


Campus engagement
announcements Page 6

INSPIRATION FROM OTHER STUDENTS

Drawing II and Poetry classes
present collaborative project Page 7

THE ECHO CREATED MY COMMUNITY



Echo editors say goodbye Page 8

MEN'S GOLF PREPARING FOR NATIONALS, BRACING FOR THE FUTURE

The Trojans will be losing
three top players to graduation
after tournament Page 10

CONTENTS

News.....Pg 1–2
Features.....Pg 3
Life & Times.....Pg 4–6
A&E.....Pg 7
Opinions.....Pg 8–9
Sports.....Pg 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

Today

57°
40°



Saturday

60°
44°



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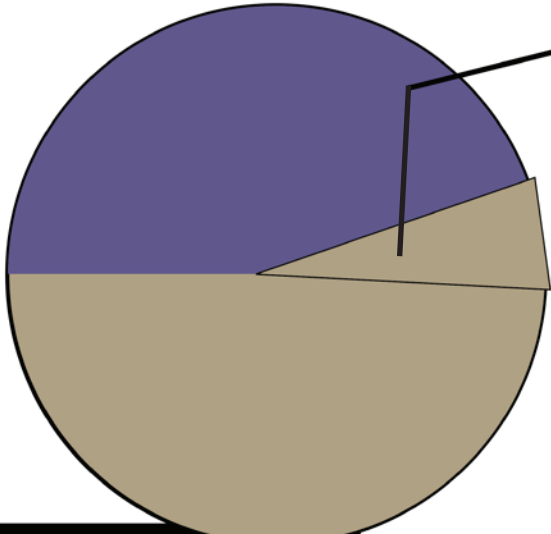


CLASSY NUMBERS

Interesting facts and statistics about the class of 2019



TAYLOR UNIVERSITY



56% of
graduates received
student loans

\$24,841
AVERAGE DEBT

466 UNDERGRADUATES & 27 MASTERS

493 graduates

368 OF 466 GRADUATES STARTED TOGETHER IN 2015

STUDENTS RECEIVING ACADEMIC HONORS:

(undergraduates only, no honors are given for Masters)

91
summa cum laude
(3.90–4.0)

123
magna cum laude
(3.70–3.89)

89
cum laude
(3.5–3.69)

AVERAGE GPA:
3.55
(sample average of all GPAs)

5 LARGEST MAJORS AMONG GRADUATES:

1. Management (38)
2. Exercise Science (33)
3. Psychology (33)
4. Elementary Ed. (30)
5. Marketing (29)

STUDY ABROAD:
65%
or more of the class of 2019
studied abroad

213
men

280
women

32 NATIONS represented:

Bahamas, Barbados, Canada,
China, Dominican Republic,
Ethiopia, Greece, India, Ireland,
Japan, Jordan, Lithuania,
Mozambique, Russia, Rwanda,
South Korea, Spain, Syria
Thailand & Venezuela.

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

179 - Indiana
282 - Other states

Graphic illustrated by Abigail Yasmeen Roberts



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Preparing for Pence

Preparations made for high-profile visit

Gabby Carlson & Chrysa Keenon
Editors in Chief

Commencement will look much different this year than in years previous.

The class of 2019 Commencement ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. in the Kesler Student Activities Center (KSAC).

According to Jeff Wallace, chief of campus police, there has not been this high-profile of a visit on Taylor's campus before. However, Wallace predicts no lapse in security during the time of graduation.

"As with any visit of a dignitary, there will be heightened security, with both uniformed police presence, as well as Secret Service officials," Wallace said. "Control of entrance and exit areas will be a priority and of course monitoring the flow of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic is always important."

Wallace said there will be a team of 30 campus police officers, partnering with local and state police and secret service to ensure safety. Road closures and traffic restrictions have yet to be confirmed.

Although the priority of the secret service lies with Vice

President Mike Pence, the priority of local law enforcement lies with members and families of the Taylor community.

"We have what our job is and we're ready for it and looking forward to it, because of who we're doing it for," Wallace said.

The time when commencement doors will open is still unknown. Wallace said they're currently looking to open at 7 a.m., but this may be moved later.

The amount of security checkpoints are unknown, but Wallace said the officer team is anticipating at least two entrances. He said there is a hope for having a separate entrance for the graduates, but he has not yet gotten this confirmed by the Secret Service team.

Wallace predicted that the security checkpoints will look similar to that of an airport. A list of items which are allowed and prohibited is currently being compiled and will be released once it is confirmed by the Secret Service.

Due to Taylor's status as a private campus, there will be no room for external protestors, according to Wallace. Additionally, the police reserve the right to remove anyone who is acting disruptive during the ceremony.

However, there is room for peaceful protests amongst those

students, faculty and families in attendance of commencement, if they feel obliged to do so.

On Tuesday night, an informational meeting was called for those who wish to display their dissent at commencement. A group of students have been meeting with administration to assemble a plan for those who do not wish to stay for Pence's address.

In the meeting, a panel of seven seniors explained why they are choosing to stay or walk out of commencement. This was in a hope to present more than two polarized viewpoints on the commencement controversy.

According to senior Johannah Lindsay, those who choose not to hear Pence's commencement speech are free to stand up and walk out of the gym. They will have a police escort to and from the KSAC into a predetermined location in the building, in order to protect those choosing to exit. There will be a hymn before and after the speech that will indicate when to leave and when to return.

Senior Sarah Manko, president of Inter-Class Council, led the meeting and urged those who choose to walk out to remember where they sit to get back in line for proper graduation order. Manko also requested that those who choose to



Photograph provided by Google

Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Taylor University calls for increased security at Commencement.

remain seated during the speech act respectfully toward those exiting and not trip, shout or hassle those choosing to leave.

According to Jim Garringer, director of media relations, the ceremony will be a live broadcast on the Taylor University website. The broadcast will also be available to watch on the official Taylor University social media channels as well.

Garringer said that the university is anticipating national media coverage for this event. Media will be required to show identification through a press pass to gain entry

"What we want to be able to do is to give access first and foremost to those media or locals who cover us as a matter of

course on a day to day basis and then after that we will want to accommodate as any others as we are able," Garringer said.

Pictures and video recording devices will be allowed in the ceremony, following standard commencement procedure. However, Garringer said that the traditional spot for students to take photos during the ceremony is still waiting to be confirmed by the Secret Service.

Garringer said portable air conditioning units have been rented by the university through the help of a donor and will be provided to keep the gymnasium cool. According to Joyce Wood, senior director of parent and community relations, in the event the gymnasium is at

capacity, there will be an overflow room available for people to watch the ceremony through the broadcast in Cornwall Auditorium in the LaRita Boren Campus Center.

"We're working hard to make this a day that will be one that is joyful and memorable for our graduates and we pray that our community will be able to come together to be united in Christ and that the Lord will be glorified in all of this," Garringer said. "We want to do a good job hosting the vice president of the United States."

More information will be released through official university media channels in upcoming days.

echo@taylor.edu

Professors leaving the helm

Four Taylor professors retire

Justin Chapman
Staff Writer

Michael Harbin

Position: Department Chair and Professor of Biblical Studies

Length of Service: 26 years

Favorite memory at Taylor: In his time at Taylor, he has gone to Ireland, Israel, Greece and Italy, and Turkey.

Future plans: Harbin plans to stay in Upland, enjoying his house and his garden. "We have

a house there with a nice garden," Harbin said. "I will continue my regular therapy sessions in the yard." The research project he is working on consists of writing a biblical commentary for the book of Leviticus. He holds a contract that allows him roughly five more years to finish up the project.

JoAnn Rediger

Position: Professor of Music; Chorale and Sounds

Length of Service: 23 years

Future plans: Continuing to study and play the organ.

Advice for professors: Investing

in students is something Rediger cannot stress enough. Even through general education classes like Art as an Experience, Rediger feels connected with her students and wants to know them outside the classroom. She especially desires to build relationships with international students as they add so much to this campus.

Bill Bauson

Position: Director, Systems Program and Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering

Length of Service: Five years

A Great Memory: Holding the opportunity to teach an African song in chapel. Bauson recognizes how great it was to see people having fun and praising the Lord.

Advice for Students: Bauson wants Taylor students to always think about the big picture. It is easy to be caught up in the details like a homework assignment, the next test or a problem with a roommate. Bauson said God is weaving experiences into the whole canvas of a student's life.

Dan Hammond

Position: Department Chair and Professor of Chemistry

Length of service: 38 years

A Great Memory: Some of the most meaningful memories for



Photograph by Jazmin Tuscani

JoAnn Rediger, retiring professor of music, has taught at Taylor for 23 years

Hammond are seeing graduates go out and make a difference in the world.

Future plans: Hammond is an untrained musician and plays

the harmonica, guitar and banjo. He looks forward to developing his skills to play the clawhammer (frailing) style banjo.

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Students promote mental health

Mental health club starts on campus

Ellie Tiemens
Staff Writer

Everyone has a mental health.

This phrase has become a slogan for the new Taylor chapter of the Students for Mental Health Awareness (SMHA) club.

Led by sophomores Grace Weeks, Rachel Knight and Maya Laytham, SMHA was started at Taylor to raise awareness about mental health through events that start conversations.

Weeks, the president of the club, was inspired to start SMHA at Taylor by a friend in high school who started the club there.

More recently, Weeks took an interpersonal communication class and realized that one thing not being taught in this class, or really anywhere, is that neurodiverse people communicate

differently, and that is often misunderstood.

Neurodiverse, as opposed to neurotypical, is a term referring to the neurological differences between people. Often this term is used to refer to those who are on the autism spectrum or who have other mental health divergences, such as ADHD or anxiety.

"We're hoping to promote events and we're hoping to create events that raise awareness of neurodiversity of all sorts across campus," Weeks said. "We really just want to educate people about something they probably don't know. Because neurodiversity is something that is a lot more common than I think people realize because it is such a stigmatized topic, nobody wants to talk about it... so really it's just to start conversations."

Though the group is still relatively new, and not yet an official Taylor club, they have plans

for events for next semester that will promote discussion and raise awareness of neurodiversity at Taylor. These potential events include a neurodiversity panel, a film series with talkback sessions, a sensory event, collaboration with the counseling center and others.

Additionally, as May is mental health awareness month, this group is hoping to promote that through an informational campaign.

Weeks said the group's overarching goal is to start conversations and help people learn more about themselves and others so they are better able to love each other.

"Really, it's more about relational," Laytham said. "It's not just 'here's information,' but also how do you bring this abstract concept into your everyday life, which is I think something that is super relevant to a liberal arts

college."

Caroline Poland, the director of the counseling center, expressed the counseling center's excitement for this club.

"We believe that conversations about mental health are absolutely critical to have within this community," Poland said. "There is a lot of good, helpful information that can be shared about mental health, and we need many collective voices, not just a few, talking about these things, and we are hopeful that a student led awareness group can contribute to the collective voice."

Currently, this group consists of 12 members but is always willing to accept more members.

In order to become an official Taylor University club, SMHA needs a faculty adviser. Anyone interested in joining or advising this club can contact any of the leaders. Leaders of this club also invite questions and conversations from anyone and everyone.

"We're a school that is all about intentional community," Weeks



Photograph provided by Students for Mental Health Awareness

Students for Mental Health Awareness seeks to lead discussions on neurodiversity around campus.

said. "It's hard to have an intentional community when some people who feel like they have to hide a part of themselves... For Taylor specifically (this club)

is important so that we can love each other in Christ better and accept each other as brothers and sisters better."

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Photograph by Jazmin Tuscani

Jakob Miller is excited for the new majors coming to the HGPS Department.

History, Global, Political Sciences to add new majors

Majors hope to cater to students

Sam Jones
Staff Writer

Starting fall of 2019, new majors will be available at Taylor.

With the development and advancement of the university comes the introduction of new opportunities for students. With that, the History, Global and Political Studies Department (HGPS) has decided to add two new majors

to their curriculum.

These new majors are "Politics and Public Service" and "Politics and Law." Jakob Miller, assistant professor of political science at Taylor, is passionate about these new additions.

"I'm incredibly excited about the new majors," Miller said. "They were developed because our graduates went on to success in DC and law school, so we want to align our offerings with what our students are going on to do."

Due to the success of the political science department over the past few years, students from Taylor have had the opportunity to use their studies in politics in places such as law school and even Washington, D.C.

In recent weeks, Taylor students have been represented in environments such as the Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference. Here, students have had the opportunity to show what they have learned in school

and synthesize their education with real-world problems.

One of the new majors, Politics and Law, is hoping to point students towards a career in law.

As Miller outlined, Taylor's decision to expand HGPS with Politics and Law accurately reflects the trend of recent Taylor graduates, and will hopefully equip students with the necessary tools to pursue a career of their choice.

The other new major is Politics and Public Service.

"Politics and Public Service is designed to equip student leaders with the skills and experience they need to make a difference in the world," Miller said.

Politics and Public Service presents an opportunity for students to pursue a profession in political science while also concentrating on the importance of public policy.

In accordance with the university's mission statement, Taylor aims to give students the tools they need in order to be leaders in the ever-changing world.

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“‘It’s really a great idea to have students do the presenting at high schools because it showcases our knowledge of our field — it shows the program is legitimate,’ junior Tim Pietz said.”

Writing students take on high school

The Echo

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The Echo aims to represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University’s campus fairly and without bias and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body. The Echo also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

Student journalists have published The Echo weekly since 1913, except for January term, exam week and holidays. The Echo is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Indiana Collegiate Press Association.

The Echo offices are in the Rupp Communication Arts Building.

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Writing students take on high school

Five professional writing students teach class

Grace Hooley
Features Editor

Seniors Jori Hanna and Chrysa Keenon and juniors Tim Pietz, Megan Burkhart and Alyssa Roat have more in common than just their professional writing majors; they have also taught in high schools together.

Assistant Professor of Professional Writing Linda Taylor explained how this idea manifested out of a desire to share about Taylor University’s professional writing program.

“I thought it would be a good idea to go to where the Christian high school writers are, and that if I could take students to do presentations about writing and publishing, that would help get the word out and show what we do in this program,” Taylor said. “A group of students created four different sessions they knew they could teach based on their training and experience in the program.”

Taylor spoke with Admissions Counselor Jared Burgess who signed off on the project. He also gave Taylor the names and emails of teachers in the local Christian high schools between Fort Wayne and Indianapolis.

After writing to those contacts explaining what they wanted to do, two schools responded. Hanna, Keenon, Burkhart and Pietz taught at Heritage Christian High School on Wednesday, April 24, and Hanna, Keenon, Roat and Pietz taught at Lutheran High School on Tuesday, April 30.

“The best part of teaching in these high schools was the speaking experience in front of various audiences,” Hanna said. “It was comforting to know that I could keep a high school class engaged, even if they weren’t particularly interested in the topic at large.”

Pietz mentioned how the process of teaching was not always easy. One of the hurdles toward the beginning was how to relate to high school audiences.



Photograph provided by Linda Taylor

High school students listen as college students explain the inner workings of writing.

Finally, the students found a balance between impressing the teacher and engaging the high schoolers.

Another challenge was working with a group of skilled, but independent, students to create teaching content that was both compelling and informational. Over time, the students found their strong and weak teaching points and found ways to balance one another.

“Working in a group for an artistic, creative project is difficult,” Pietz said. “The planning phase was a bit stressful, because we had different ideas of what we wanted certain things to look like. It’s especially hard to be cohesive when you’re splitting a presentation between four people! But there were some great benefits of co-presenting. When it comes down to it, and you’re presenting alongside someone, bouncing the conversation back and forth in a natural way, you feel less pressure and it becomes more engaging.”

The sessions taught where “What Is a Story?,” “Having Something to Say,” “Making a Career Out of Writing” and “How to be Cool (by publishing a book)”. The students taught



Photograph provided by Linda Taylor

Seniors Chrysa Keenon and Jori Hanna and juniors Tim Pietz and Megan Burkhart taught young minds about writing and publishing.

in five to seven class periods in each school, and they were usually split into pairs teaching different classes at the same time. Overall, they were able to talk to over 200 high school students.

This was groundbreaking for the professional writing department, but Taylor expressed deep desire to continue these high school visits into next fall and spring semesters, especially after the pleasant feedback from some of the teachers.

“One of the teachers at Heritage wrote this: ‘We enjoyed having you here,’” Taylor said. “I

was particularly impressed with your students’ composure in presenting. A couple of my girls said they couldn’t believe they were students, that they seemed like adults (which of course they sort of are). Blessings on the end of your school year, and please thank Jori, Megan, Tim, and Chrysa for all of us!”

The students enjoyed their time with this project and Pietz even hopes to return and help out with it next semester.

According to Pietz, the large motivator for the professional writing program at Taylor

is the students within the major. Not only are these students published in different areas, but some have even received book deals.

“It’s really a great idea to have students do the presenting at high schools because it showcases our knowledge of our field — it shows the program is legitimate,” Pietz said. “On top of that, we’re only a few years older than the high schoolers we present to. It’s not hard for them to see themselves in our shoes in a few years.”

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Chapel sends off graduating class 2019 with stories and prayer

Seniors share stories of struggle and growth

Ethan Rice
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, May 8, seven members of this year’s graduating senior class stood on the stage of Rediger Chapel to reflect on their time at Taylor University.

The Senior Share Chapel is an ongoing tradition for the final chapel before the baccalaureate service every year. Campus Pastor Jon Cavanagh describes it as an opportunity for seniors to share testimony of how God used the campus community to impact their life.

“It’s not uncommon for seniors to talk about who they were and where they are now,” Cavanagh said. “They share some details, take a little bit of a risk for a chance to connect to someone in the crowd. It’s the idea that if they made it through this, then I can make it through.”

This year the speaking seniors were Madeleine Burkholder, McKenna Gartzke, Sam Thomas, Cierra Eder, Jenny Miller, Madison May and Ben Davis. They came from all corners of campus, with very different majors and very different journeys.

One of the common threads across the seven brief speeches was a shared willingness not to gloss over the difficulties of life on campus. After several years



Photograph by Josie Koontz

Senior Sam Thomas re-lives their four years at Taylor during Chapel.

of harsh divisions boiling over within the campus community, many of the speakers shared stories of suffering and wrestling with God over why they had been put here at Taylor University, out of all the places they could be.

Through all the stories, however, the journey was not defined by the difficulty, but rather

the power of the community to uplift its hurting members and the grace of God to teach new lessons and build character through adversity.

“Why are we caused to suffer?” Eder recalls being asked by a friend. “I don’t know why, but I am grateful. Without pain, we never have to choose. I chose to run crying to God and give my

heart to him, not because I am brave but because I cannot hold it on my own. The truth of my belief is revealed through pain.”

The honesty of those who shared offered up a more powerful presentation than simply passing along the platitudes of university life, speaking to the realities faced by every student in their own unique ways. The

ups and downs of their time learning together weaves every piece of the Taylor experience together into a grander vision.

Whether it was Gartzke meeting her fiancé on the annual ‘Awk-Walk’ and moving from naivety to a desire to fix brokenness, Thomas learning the importance of accepting and receiving forgiveness as he built

an identity beyond his older brother, Miller saving money and commuting to power her six year journey to graduation or any of the other stories shared, the singular highlight was the radically diverse stories that populate campus and the tying binds of community that hold it together.

This could not be better represented than the closing of the chapel, in which all graduating seniors in attendance were asked to stand to be recognized and prayed over by their peers, a reciprocity of the prayers extended to freshmen at the beginning of the year. Students filed back out to class with the tears of an ending but the smiles brought by a loving community.

Cavanagh hopes that the value of reflection will not be lost on those who were in attendance and that it will inspire more students to encourage one another by sharing their stories not just in chapel but in the residence halls and around the lunch tables. This is something he believes is very important for believers.

“If you went on a Lighthouse Trip, everyone would ask you about what you experienced,” Cavanagh said. “We should be doing that for seniors at the end of their college journey. There’s something really meaningful when someone takes the time to ask.”

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Friday Guy promoted to editor in chief

One voice to rally them all

Victoria Lawson
Staff Writer

If you haven't seen him, you've at least heard him: Taylor's beloved "Friday Guy," junior Justin Chapman, was appointed to be editor in chief of THE ECHO for the 2019–2020 year.

Chapman originally had no intentions of becoming editor in chief because he did not know what his senior year was going to look like. However, Faculty Advisor for THE ECHO and Associate Professor of Journalism Alan Blanchard approached him and encouraged him to apply, giving Chapman a week to think about it.

The position of editor in chief is a time-consuming position with a wide variety of responsibilities, including final edits of the whole paper before it is released, leading budget meetings to plan out the stories for each section, overseeing correspondence on behalf of THE ECHO and leading all the other section editors. Once Chapman knew he had room in his schedule to take on the responsibility, he accepted the position.

While Chapman is personally looking forward to gaining more writing and leadership experience through this position, he is also delighted to continue investing in THE ECHO for what it means to the campus communally.

"I think THE ECHO is unique because we go to



Photograph by **Tim Hudson**

Junior Justin Chapman prepares for his role as editor-in-chief.

such a small school and it's not something where it's all journalists and communications majors who are pouring into it," Chapman said. "Because I'm sure at a bigger school it'd be mostly

those majors, but it's really fun to get to know different people from different areas. There are a lot of people that I've met through it that I wouldn't have met otherwise. It's just a cool thing

to make a great newspaper that's highly respected and one that people appreciate a lot."

As for Chapman's vision for THE ECHO, he hopes to continue including fun beats

such as junior Drew Shriner's "Croc Thoughts" while making room for new column ideas. One idea he hopes to bring to life is an idea suggested to him by a staff writer: a column for students

studying abroad to share their experiences and write as contributors in the midst of their time overseas. This way, students back home can get a firsthand glimpse into that trip or country while that student is there instead of in hindsight.

Chapman's crucial incoming role in rallying THE ECHO staffers has an undeniable, completely obvious and direct correlation to his other crucial role as the iconic Friday Guy.

After being chosen his freshman year to bear the honor of the shirt, the title and the rallying cry, "'Cause it's Friday!" from previous Friday Guy Robbie Brandkamp ('17), Chapman believes the skills he has acquired could transfer well into his new position as editor-in-chief.

Brandkamp chose Justin as next Friday Guy because of his good chapel attendance, his ability to verbally relay information effectively and with a high volume and his confidence that the prestigious role would not go to Chapman's head.

That humility and responsibility in the wake of great power is why many believe Chapman is well-suited for the job. Current Co-Editor in chief senior Chrysa Keenon is one of these believers.

"It's super bittersweet to leave THE ECHO, but I have full confidence that Justin is going to be able to handle whatever campus throws at him next year," Keenon said. "He has wonderful leadership skills and I can't wait to see all the wonderful things he will accomplish during his time as Editor in Chief."

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Ten things you must do to graduate Taylor

Alyssa Roat
Staff Writer

Graduation is almost upon us. Our graduates have studied, worked, slaved, cried, wailed, despaired, sobbed in library study rooms and tried to drown their sorrows in DC deserts, but with tests taken, classes passed and final projects complete, they have conquered.

Or have they?

Before you walk across the stage, have you completed all the requirements to graduate? Here's a checklist to make sure there isn't anything you've forgotten. And if you're an underclassman, here are the 10 things you'll need to do before you too can graduate.

1. Learn to use the words flourishing, shalom and intentional community in all conversations.

Luckily, you should get a solid foundation in this freshman year. (Foundation. See what we did there?) You're not just "doing well," you're flourishing in the shalom fostered by Taylor's intentional community.

2. Pledge your allegiance to Chick-fil-A.

For four years, Chick-fil-A is going to be one of your six major food groups. By the time you graduate, you should be a Chick-fil-vangelist, calling a fallen world to

"eat mor chikin."

- 3. Devolve into using weird acronyms and nicknames for everything.**
- You can hear a noob a mile away as soon as they say, "The Dining Commons" or "The Kesler Center." By graduation, you should know how to go from the Deec to the KSAC and then grab some nugs at the stude.
- 4. Read every book by C. S. Lewis.**
- Here at Taylor, we confess the divine authority of Christ and the intellectual authority of our theological overlord C. S. Lewis. From celebrating him weekly, to dedicating an entire center to him, to building a bell tower in the image of his good friend J.R.R. Tolkien's character The Eye of Sauron, Taylor falls just short of worshipping Lewis, and you should too.
- 5. Find your future spouse on a pick-a-date.**
- This is God's design for dating.
- 6. Develop a (coffee) drinking problem.**
- There are ways of developing addictions without breaking the LTC. We may not hold frat parties, but the line at the Bean before chapel is a party all its own.
- 7. Be featured in the Echo.**
- Everyone needs their moment of black and white Taylor fame.

- 8. Try all the flavors at Ivanhoe's.**
- We know all your money is going toward your crippling debt in student loans, but there are 100 flavors at Ivanhoe's to try. If you want to impress future employers with your dedication, show them your checked-off menu.
- 9. Get engaged.**
- Especially if you're a female, you need to earn your MRS degree. Who it is doesn't matter; just make sure they're the opposite gender, they attend Taylor, and their ideal date is Chick-fil-A followed by the Bean.
- 10. Have the best four (or three or five) years of your life.**
- Life ends after college. (Don't believe us? They'll make sure you know how awful post-graduation is in senior seminar). Enjoy life now, because if there's one thing senior sem taught us, it's that it's all downhill from here.
- From the Taylor University Survival Guide, have a great summer and a great life.
- Note: Please don't worship other gods (e.g. Chick-fil-A and C. S. Lewis), and we really do think life after graduation will be pretty great. At least, we hope so. This is Alyssa Roat, signing off on the final edition of the Taylor University Survival Guide. Time to go survive the real world.
- echo@taylor.edu**



foody x fix

A slice of (pizza) heaven in Marion

Lily Smith
Life & Times Co-Editor

Right along the Mississinewa River stands a small edifice, housing Marion's own Brooks Uppercrust Pizza-Grill. Outside of the restaurant, the river runs and adds an ambience that is usually found lacking in Marion, Indiana. The surprisingly serene setting is only an introduction to the hidden goldmine of a restaurant. Brooks Uppercrust Pizza-Grill offers a variety of appetizers, pizzas, salads, loaded potatoes and sandwiches. While

the menu isn't extremely extensive, the options presented are sure to please everyone. Both the food and the restaurant itself are warmly nostalgic, with encouraging signs and vintage posters lining the walls. The pizzas are large, cheesy and affordable enough for a broke college student's night out. There are a variety of comforting appetizers like mozzarella sticks, garlic bread and breadsticks.

While the pizza isn't anything especially dynamic, the atmosphere and service make Brooks Uppercrust Pizza-Grill a great place to stop in for dinner or a yummy lunch.

The service is impeccable and

the workers never fail to cheerfully reply to any and all inquiries that guests may have. They even bid guests farewell with a kind, "Have a blessed day!" each and every time.

Brooks Uppercrust Pizza-Grill is a hidden gem of Marion and the perfect place to grab a bite and walk along the river.

Overall Pros: The service is great and there are a variety of pizza options. The appetizers are also delicious. The spot is perfectly located for a stroll by the river after or before dinner.

Overall Cons: Unfortunately, there aren't options on the menu for those who follow gluten-free or paleo diets.

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Photograph provided by **Google**

Brooks Upper Crust Pizza is a hidden gem alongside the Mississinewa River.



croc thoughts

Why questions are so important

Drew Shriner
Staff Writer

As this year concludes, I have become quite reflective. Endings tend to bring that out in me. Upon reaching important times, times of change, I look backward rather than forward. I evaluate. I question.

I say goodbye to a friend, and I wonder whether the goodbye could have been made more significant, whether I gave my best to that friendship over the year. I clean my room and think that I should have cleaned it more regularly during the semester (but then I have the fun surprise of finding things that I thought were lost!).

Just a few nights ago, I “passed the torch” for a leadership position, and I could not help but question whether I had done a good

job at my role. My self-critical nature said no.

Even as I am writing this column, my last of the year, I am looking backward, evaluating each column, wondering whether it was worth reading. I hope they were.

These questions are important to me. As I evaluate, I am able to remember the different moments of the year, to revisit special, influential, ordinary or simple memories, times that challenged and shaped me.

I hope that we are all asking questions. That is one of the main goals of this column: to propose more questions than it answers — to prompt the readers to think for themselves.

I hope that your questions are different than mine. I hope that you are willing to share some of those questions so that I can have new questions to think about.

Perhaps most of all, I hope

that as we look back, as we question, we then pivot and look forward. When we fail to pivot, we can easily become trapped in a spiral of regret and revision. It can easily become difficult to move forward from this place. When we pivot, we can learn from our mistakes and shortcomings, and do our best to not repeat them in the next season of life, whether that is at Taylor or not.

Some of these questions can be very practical and basic. How many hours did you sleep on a nightly basis? What foods did you eat? How often did you procrastinate assignments?

Some can be more personal and more abstract. Did you use your time well? Did you value others above yourself? What kind of person were you? How would others describe your year?

There are many, many questions to ask oneself. It is my prayer that as this year closes, we will all be able to find time to look back, question and then pivot. Let us use this natural break in our rhythms to press “restart” and be more like the versions of ourselves that we want to be.

echo@taylor.edu

Taylor Grad-Libs: Graduation

by Alyssa Roat

This year’s graduation is going to be _____.
The Vice President of _____, _____, is going to be speaking.
Of course, having the vice president _____ will make this graduation _____. First, to get into graduation, everyone will need a _____. Second, there will be extra security. Any _____ might be part of the Secret _____. Finally, many _____ are [ADJECTIVE] and might stage a walkout.
This graduation may be _____, but in the end, we’re just ready to _____ our finals, _____ our degrees and enjoy our summer.

The Weekly

BACHELOR AND BACHELORETTE

Jack McNeil

Sophomore:
He is happily dating someone currently.



Sydney Smith

Junior:
She has a deep love for Mexican food.



#TaylorU's TOP TWEETS

Isaac @isaacdbowser
@tayloru may be the only university where the undergrads make fun of the grad students. #tayloru

Gillian @Gillian32188779
Someone tell me why there is always a baseball game. 9 am? Baseball. 1 am? Baseball. 3 pm? Baseball. #tayloru

LEAH @leahnicolee14
thank you to the people playing you raise me up outside my window and singing it's a real wholesome way to fall asleep... almost in tears #tayloru

Rayce Patterson @Run_Rayce_Run
Just scared the other guy in the bathroom. He jumped when I slammed my shower caddy into the sink over and over again. “One less mosquito in the world.” #tayloru

Chrysa is finishing undergrad @Chrysa_Keenon
Hear that sound, #tayloru? That's the collective screaming of the Comm Department students as we scramble to prepare for the senior show tonight. Send help.

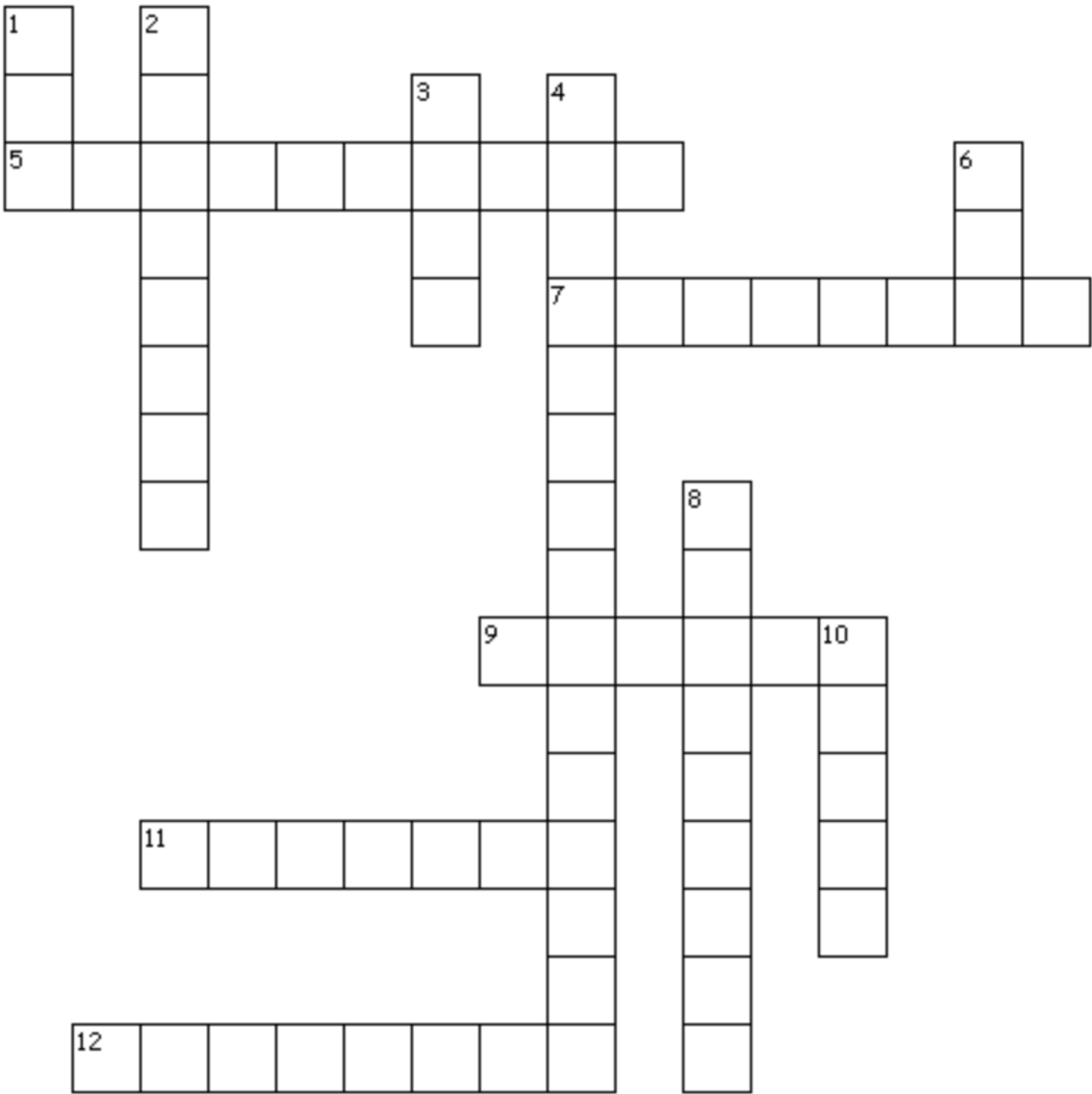
emmaking @emklingx
when tu dance vibes just flips your switch...” #tayloru

Rayce Patterson @Run_Rayce_Run
Whether you’re in college or elementary school, field trip days are still the best days #tayloru

katie_pfozter @PfozterKatie
My DA just abbreviated the word “bathroom” to “throom” and if that isn't a sign of where we're all at mentally, I don't know what is #TaylorU

Gillian @Gillian32188779
I am so fearful whenever I walk past tolfers #tayloru

Grace Christodoss @GChristodoss
sometimes I read my Bible to procrastinate doing my homework #TaylorU



"Heading Into Summer and Leaving Finals" Weekly Crossword

Across
5. Hub for summer classes
7. The lifeblood of college students everywhere
9. Last challenge to survive before break
11. 24 hours after your last final
12. A leave of absence from a regular occupation

Down
1. Bound to corporate America for three months
2. Twas the week before finals, when all through the college, students scrambled to obtain any knowledge
3. The place you've abandoned the last school year
4. Please stop doing this crossword and write your paper
6. Vitamin D
8. Is it a fancy, required internship?
10. Catch up on Zs

For the answers to this week’s crossword email kamryn_koble@taylor.edu



EngagementAnnouncements

Photographs provided by each couple

LeeAnna Davis and Joshua Morris

We are greatly looking forward to the next chapter of our friendship that has been four years in the making!

Teagan Rowley and Corey Miller

We met and started dating in high school and plan to get married in the summer of 2020 after we graduate.

Emma Walsh and Mason Degenkolb

We started dating in September of 2017 and were engaged this past October and plan to be married on June 13th, 2020.

Addy Bailey and Christian Allen

Though we first met at Addy's high school senior prom, we fell in love at the Grand Canyon in 2016 — both with each other and the beauty of a giant hole. To continue our love after marriage, we'll be returning to The Canyon to spend the rest of our lives!

Sydnee Piercefield and Josiah Henson

Josiah and I met in our freshman J-term class, which started our friendship. We began dating several months later, and now getting married at the end of May!

Joy Gardner and Clayton Wright

He's from Ohio and she's from Florida, and they're both passionate about living authentically and growing in Christ. They met at Taylor University at the end of freshman year and got engaged on December 14th, 2018!

Caleb Swing and Ember Pflughoeft

We met in high school choir, became best friends through the drama program, and after 4 years of dating we're now on our way to marriage! He proposed over spring break on our road trip down to Florida under the pier at Naples beach. It could not have been more perfect and I can't wait to marry him.

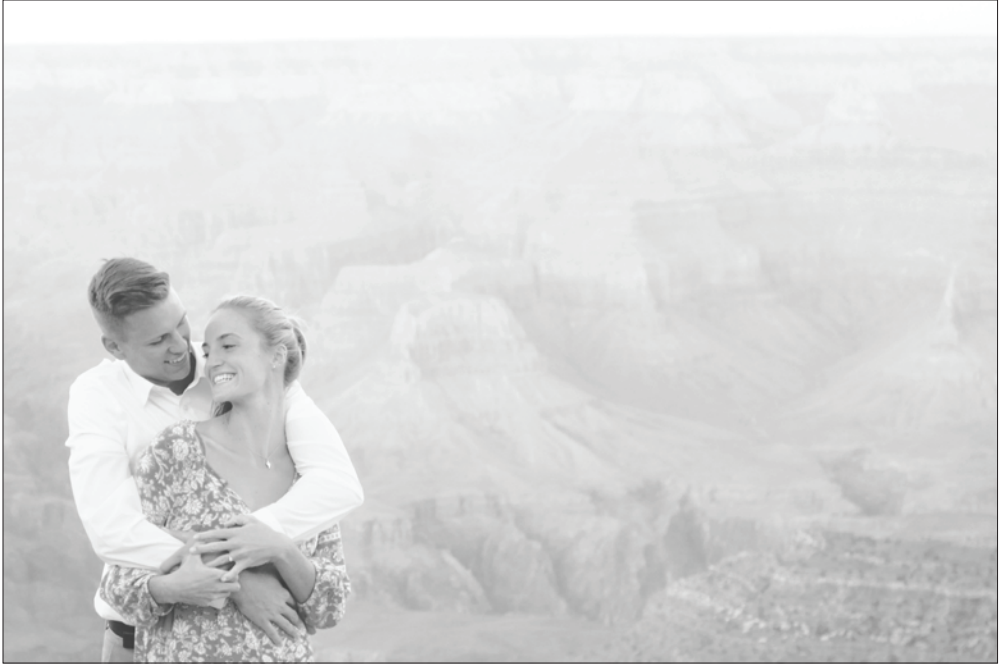
Mary Wurster and Ron Brunette

Mary ('19) and Ron ('16) got engaged on November 2, 2018 after almost two years of dating and are getting married this August.



Plenseh-Tay Sakeuh and Sam Nordquist

We have been long distance our whole relationship but as they say, distance makes the heart grow fonder!



Theater graduate builds community beyond campus

Multimedia project bridges gap

Katie Pfozter
Staff Writer

There are some who love to make things and there are others for whom a dedication to create emotional narratives becomes an obsession.

Sean Sele ('18) falls into this latter category of artists.

Sele has donned the title artistic entrepreneur. What this looks like is a life absorbed by projects. Currently, he is working simultaneously as an actor in Portland, Oregon's professional theater scene, creating various jazz projects and pouring almost every spare moment into "Liminal Souls," his pet project.

"I have been learning lately that if you want to do something, you should just do it one hundred percent," Sele said. "I was going to say especially in art, but I think that is true in all areas of life."

He started working on this project with his former Taylor roommate, Andrew Davis ('18).

"Liminal Souls" is a music-centric, multimedia storytelling event.

"It uses a combination of melancholy R&B tracks and ambient interludes that demonstrate how the thoughts of our waking self and our dreaming self inevitably fall into each other's arms," Sele said.

One of Sele's goals for this project was to promote collaboration among current and former Taylor



Photograph provided by Sean Sele

"Liminal Souls" is a collaborative project between alumni and students.

students in the arts.

This collaboration, for Sele, looks like inviting another voice into the

discussion rather than issuing a directive.

Senior Suzie Quinn said she was allowed to

channel her own experiences into a dance she choreographed for a portion of the project.

"I think the project is evidence of the collaborative sensibilities that Sean has as an artist," Tracy Manning, assistant professor of theater arts, said. "He is bringing together the elements of things that he loves into an articulation of thought and expression."

Sele explained that upon hearing music, he often sees colors or dance.

He expressed that the project came naturally to him, saying that he could not fully convey the message of the music without visuals.

"Every art form has its own strength in articulating truth," Sele said. "So the more mediums you can unite together into one project seamlessly, like one stream-of-consciousness

experience, the more truthfully you can represent the world that you are trying to create."

"Liminal Souls" is available for preorder now on the musician's website. It is currently scheduled to come out in January 2020.

Throughout the project, Sele enjoyed the privilege of seeing community flourish outside of the university itself.

"It has really meant a lot for me to have people who grew with me so pivotally at Taylor take on this project along with me" Sele said. "And it is also important because they have been students at Taylor and understand the importance of the unity of faith and humanities."

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A&E

Stay Up To Date

Student Directed Plays

Today

7:00 PM

"Hello Out There" by William Saroyan; Directed by Emma Wagoner

7:45 PM

"Hard Candy" by Jonathan Rand; Directed by Lauren Vock

8:15 PM Defense of Senior Capstone by Emma Wagoner (in the Theatre Lobby)

8:30 PM "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams; Directed by Bradley Jensen

May 11

7:00 PM Musical Theatre Showcase of John Broda and Ty Kinter

8:45 PM "The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" by Paul Zindel; Directed by Suzie Quinn

C.S. Lewis and Friends Tea

Origins of Alice in Wonderland

Today – 4 p.m.

Zondervan 142

Taylor Ringers Concert

May 11 – 7:30 p.m.

Butz Carruth Recital Hall

Senior Recital

Lindsay Couvion & Paige Kennedy

May 12 – 3 p.m.

Butz Carruth Recital Hall

Senior/Junior Recital

Kelly Gruendyke & Steven Christophersen

May 12 – 7 p.m.

Inspiration from other students

Artists and poets collaborate

Emily Pawlowski
A&E Editor

In the library Galleria, a unique project is on display for all to see.

The Drawing II and Poetry Writing classes presented their second annual collaboration, with poems inspired by art and art inspired by poetry.

Associate Professor of English Dan Bowman said that the collaboration was one of the best he has seen.

"The work was very strong — both the visual art pieces and poems — and I felt that the students truly responded to one another, which resulted in some great efforts," Bowman said.

Bowman has collaborated with Assistant Professor of Art Laura Stevenson for several semesters now.

They first worked together when Stevenson began working at Taylor. She reached out to Bowman with the idea of collaboration, and they have continued from there.

"It's great to see how



Photograph by Natalie Baker

Sophomores Natalie Casey and Maggie Cripe admire the art and poetry on display in Zondervan Library.

sometimes doing a collaborative activity like this encourages students to creatively work with new imagery and ideas that they might not typically explore on their own," Stevenson said. "Also, it's really fun to see Taylor students creating responses to other Taylor students' work and ideas."

The goal for both artists and poets was

to create something that could stand as an independent work, while still representing the original piece's theme.

For students, this served as not just a practice in studying others, but as a chance to how others view their own work.

"I enjoyed this project because it was a nice way to learn how

other creatives interpreted your work," freshman Sam Dayton said.

Dayton was a part of the drawing class and created three pieces that were on display. Two were his own ideas, and one inspired by the poem "Gramms" by Mica Evans.

Sophomore Mercy Heiser, another drawing student, found the

collaboration with the poetry class to be inspiring.

"This project was really enjoyable for me because the poets' work was so visually rich," Heiser said. "I hardly had read 2 lines into it before I knew what I wanted to draw."

Heiser had four pieces, two of which were inspired by poetry. She was challenged by the difficulties of preserving the original meaning of the work while still finding a way to communicate it visually.

This was Heiser's second time working on a collaborative project in Stevenson's class. She expressed excitement at the idea of future chances to work with the writing classes.

Bowman also sees a continuing tradition for projects such as these.

"The work gained notice from different people around campus, stopping people and inviting them to reflect," Bowman said. "So I'd love to continue this tradition. It seems good for everyone."

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'Fierce Marriage' advises couples on making love last

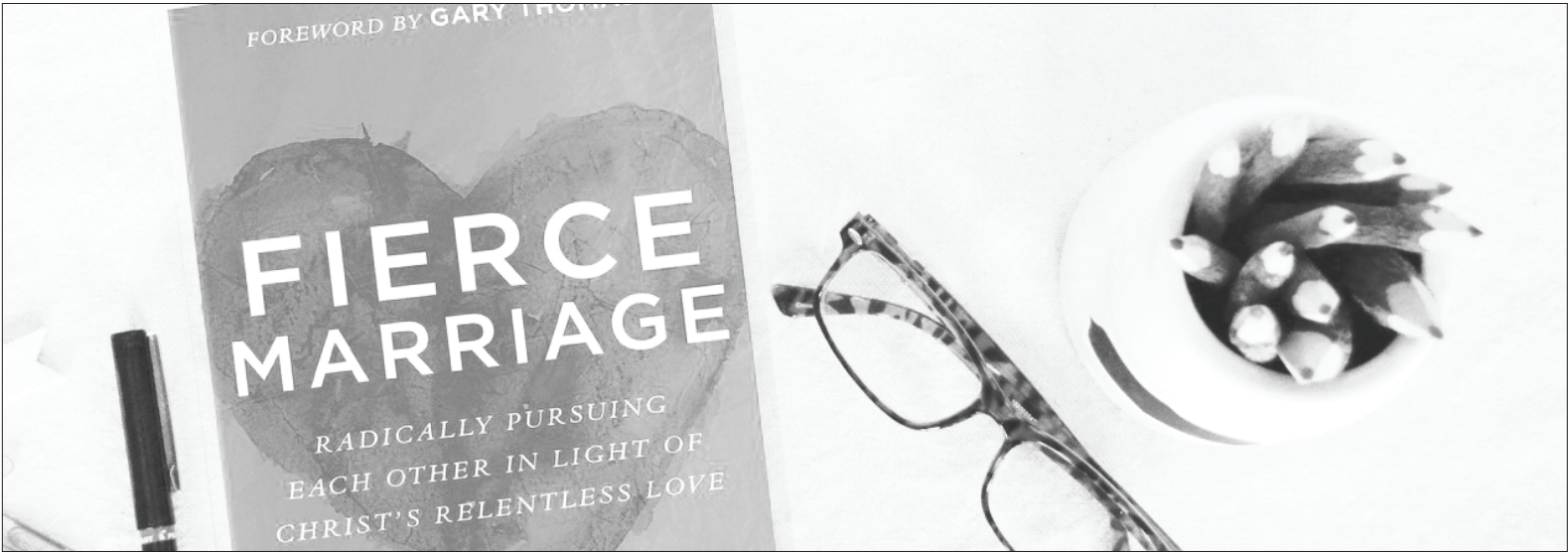
Couple shares their relationship advice

Megan Alms
Contributor

Ryan and Selena Frederick's marriage began with a life-or-death crisis.

Upon graduating college, the new couple decided to go on adventure, leaving their lives and moving to Switzerland to pursue equestrian care for a year. But within a few weeks of their adventure, Ryan fell ill with a mysterious sickness. After trying to tough it out for a few weeks, he went to the doctor. He learned that he had a bacterial growth on his mitral valve. When he asked how much the surgery would cost, the doctor told Ryan, "You either go to the hospital or you die."

This life-threatening event is the experience



Photograph by Megan Alms

Selena and Ryan Frederick explain how to keep that "spark" in marriage in new book.

from which the Fredericks write from. Having such a close encounter with mortality affected the way they have lived the rest of their lives. They committed to loving each other fiercely and fighting for each other every day.

Your marriage isn't about you, or even about

your spouse, the couple has learned. Your marriage is about serving God and proclaiming Jesus' power to a world in need of hope. It's a covenant made to promise unconditional love. If your hearts and marriage are in the right place, this covenant

relationship brings both spouses closer to God.

So what are the secret ingredients to a lasting marriage?

The first is prioritization, say Ryan and Selena. Put God first, then your spouse, then your children. Everything else

should come after these three most important members of your life. Be intentional about making time for each other, and that investment will yield a closer marriage.

The second component, according to Ryan and Selena, is communication.

Don't just talk; listen to your spouse. Be aware of the signals he or she is sending out, not only through words, but also through body language, tone and timing. Seek the real issues hiding behind frustrations he or she may be communicating. Be quick to hear, slow

to speak and slow to anger.

Perhaps the most striking element of this couple's advice, their secret to keeping the "spark" in their marriage, is curiosity. Don't lose curiosity about getting to know your spouse. Whether you've been together for one year or fifty, there is always more to learn about each other. Remember how excited you were to get to know one another on the first date? That flame of excitement continues to burn as long as you desire to discover more about each other.

From finances to intimacy, this book covers the tough topics. And, with the help of God, couples can use this book as a way to facilitate conversation and strengthen their marriages.

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“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

—The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The Echo

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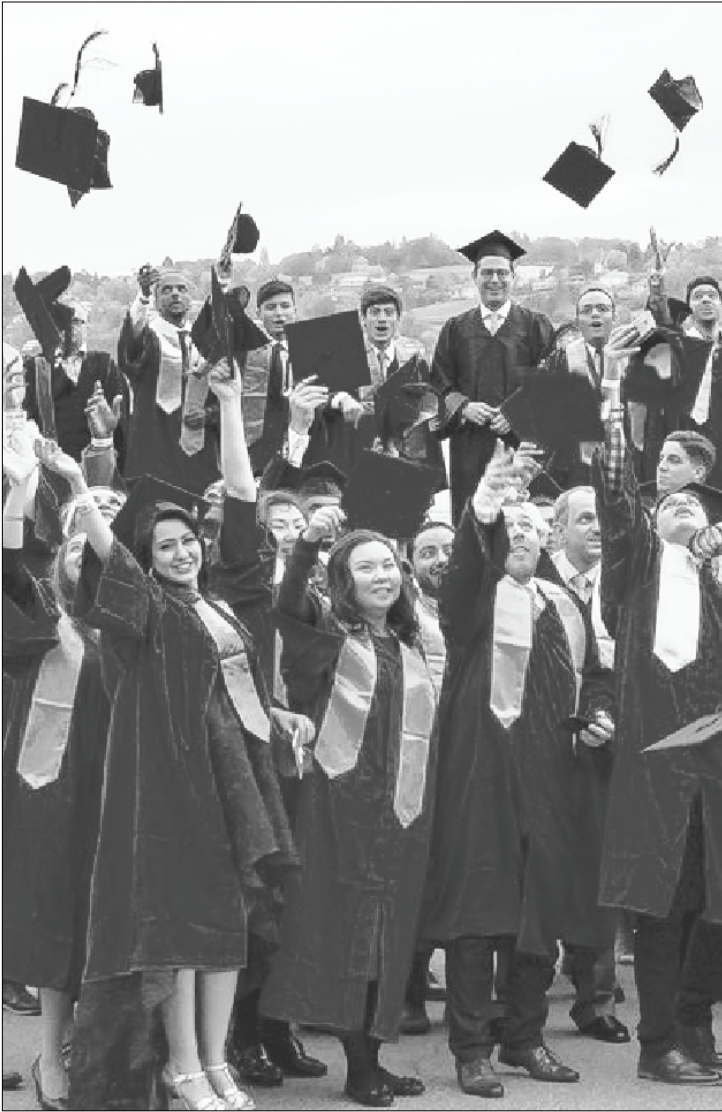
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News Co-Editor

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Staff Writer



Photograph provided by Google

Post-grad life holds a number of opportunities for those who can find them.

Our View

Dreams and jobs

Formation happens after graduation

Graduation is approaching and every senior is being asked the same question: what's next?

According to a study in the Washington Post done in 2010, only 27.3% of college seniors are working a job in their field of study after college. Only 62% are working a job that requires the degree they have and even goes as far as saying finding a job outside your major is more common than finding one within it.

Shawn Denny ('90), information services/marketing and assessment librarian, didn't find a job that fit him in his field for five years after his graduation from Taylor. Instead, he worked retail, odd jobs and decided to get a masters in library science.

"My father was so disappointed that he called the dean of students and asked why I wasn't getting a job," Denny said.

Denny believes the computer science department helped bring in alumni and connections, and was proactive in the hiring process of their students. He had two separate job opportunities after college, but didn't feel like either fit him.

An article by CNBC argues that a graduate's first job is formational to their career. According to their findings, one in five college graduates are not working a job that requires a degree a decade after graduation, because they

weren't proactive with their first job choice.

"More important than what you study, he said, is that you're keeping in mind the skills you need to land a job in that field one day," Matt Sigelman, CEO of Burning Glass Technologies, said.

During his five years of retail and odd jobs, Denny believes he cultivated skills he actively uses in his career. These skills include customer service, learning how to work on a team and an element of confidence.

His encouragement to students is to not freak out about not having "the job" upon graduation, but to consider their options.

"Make the most of the circumstance," Denny said. "You'll gain experience and be an influence on other people. Don't despair and don't feel like you're a failure. I cannot look back on my past and not see all that I gained."

The editorial board agrees it's okay if the ideal job in your field does not come before your graduation. We also agree if the job is presented to you, we at Taylor have been equipped with the tools to take on the task with our whole person education. There is not a specific time when each person thrives, and until that time comes, flourish in the place you have been placed and cultivate the skillsets you need for when the job in your field reveals itself.

echo@taylor.edu

THE ECHO created my community

An editor in chief's perspective



Gabby Carlson
Co-Editor in Chief

THE ECHO is not only eight pages of stories I look through every week, it's my community.

Most people who pick up an Echo on Friday at 10:50 a.m. can flip to the Features page and see the names of dedicated writers, photographers, designers and editors who they may or may not know on the masthead. Those people have become the community I never knew I needed.

Becoming co-editor in chief was a daunting challenge I strived to figure out.

But now, as I look back over a year of weekly meetings where I ate chips and dip with Sam, Grace and Drew, Jackie yelling at me from the other room to ask a question, hard conversations with important people on campus and nights where everything went wrong but a paper still happened for the next day, I realize this is not a position I could figure out. There is no right way to do this job and not a chance I was going to be able to use reason to try and figure it out.

So after a few struggling weeks of trying to make everything fit how I thought it should go, and being miserably stressed in the process, I decided to let it go, and let God.



Photograph provided by Eric Andrews

Seniors Gabby Carlson and Chrysa Keenon leave The Echo after years of service.

Every single person on staff this year has handled their position with professionalism and poise, but we have had such a fun time building a paper for this campus every week. This isn't to say a problem didn't arise every week, but the staff Chrysa and I frantically put together in the spring always came together to help each other and create a paper we are proud to stand behind.

One of the first things you hear when you step on campus is Taylor is all about community. I am involved in a few communities around campus, but THE ECHO is where I have been able to grow and thrive for the last three years. So this year, it has been a privilege to watch that community thrive

in THE ECHO office, the Mac lab and around campus.

THE ECHO is special place for community because not only are we becoming friends and making memories, we are creating something that will be part of university history each week. I think the point of THE ECHO is to produce good work that accurately represents our time at the university. The fact that we all enjoy each other and want to be in each others' lives is an added bonus.

Saying I feel grateful for my formation and time on THE ECHO is an understatement. I will always remember the late nights, the pizza parties, laughing and crying with Chrysa, meeting aspiring writers and being one myself and it's going to be bittersweet.

But despite the days that were hard and I wanted to quit, THE ECHO showed me who I strived to be and gave me the community I needed to figure that out.

How this office in Rupp and a random ad in the student announcements happened to form my college career, I'll never figure out. But I don't have to. When a scared sophomore me walked in to that office for the first time, God knew the plan for the next three years. It was okay that I hadn't picked up an Echo until the night before my interview (sorry Becca and Cassidy). I will never figure out how to do the job I am tasked completely.

Breathe in, breathe out. Let it be and let God.

echo@taylor.edu

Intentional community in my Wendy's?

It's more likely than you might think



Chrysa Keenon
Co-Editor in Chief

I pulled my first and only all-nighter of college in a Wendy's.

It was the weekend of a retreat for our major. My best friend Sarah and I had just spent eight hours surrounded by people, which is a huge feat for us introverts. Sarah slept through dinner and she was hungry when we hung out later that evening. The suggestion of tacos got thrown out, and so we climbed into my car (and picked up another friend along the way after nearly hitting him on the road in true Taylor pedestrian fashion) we drove off around 11 p.m.

To our dismay, Taco Bell had just closed, so we were forced to go to our only other option for a

late-night snack in the cornfields: Wendy's.

We stayed in that Wendy's until 6:30 a.m., when we drove back to the D.C. to eat breakfast at 7 a.m. with the church crowd.

Even though this happened sophomore year and I've done plenty of crazy stuff since then, this remains one of my favorite experiences at college. When I try to explain it to my friends or family who don't go to Taylor, they always made a funny face.

Generally, they ask: "How could you have fun in a 24-hour Wendy's?"

Those outside Taylor culture will never be able to fathom the extremes we have to go to in order to create our "wild college nights." And to me, that makes them even more special. Because that night, I got closer to my friends in a random (and weird) way that I wasn't anticipating, but has stuck with me ever since.

However, my Taylor career has

not been all fun runs to fast food joints. I had to switch dorms because of how badly I was bullied. I've hurt people in my decisions when I thought I was doing the right thing. The head of my department was accused of sexual assault and abruptly resigned. I've recently had political conversations that have ruined friendships with people I may never see again after next week. In retrospect, it's a little ironic that my senior year started and ended with a storm, because both have tested my personhood and my leadership.

But the negative balances out with the positive, because such is life. Despite the mixed bags of feelings Taylor is leaving with me, this campus gifted me something I will be grateful for the rest of my life.

It gave me a family.

Four years ago, I could never have predicted how wonderfully those in the Professional Writing major have impacted me. Now, I

can barely imagine my life without them. They have helped me become a better artist and human being.

I feel the same with this year's staff of THE ECHO. When I started out freshman year as the lowly subscription and distribution manager, being co-editor in chief was a far-off dream that I never thought I would fulfill. Not only did I accomplish this, but I also got to do it with the best staff and co-editor in the world. (I'm a little biased, sorry not sorry.)

Because this is the core of Taylor: the people. The humans we love, cherish, grow toward and grow apart from. Just like the body of Christ, what I found on campus does not occur in a building, but rather in the souls of those around me.

As this chapter of my life comes to a close, I hope the generations that come after me find joy in the way I did — in the people, and the fries.

echo@taylor.edu

Global theology is a valuable class

Student shares personal experience



Carissa Zaffiro
Contributor

Taylor students take pride in their cross-cultural and overseas experiences. While enrolled in the university, one can participate in experiences such as Lighthouse and Spring Break Missions that introduce the student to cultural and religious systems different from their own. In fact, Taylor has frequently been ranked by organizations like Open Doors as the top ten universities for students participating in programs abroad.

But while students travel, how much are they really learning about the theological systems and religions of the world? A class at Taylor

called Global theology — or REL350 — is one way I was able as a student to learn about multiple different countries, religions, and systems of theology without ever leaving the cornfields of Indiana.

"It offers students a rare chance to critically and constructively engage with non-Western biblical/theological ideas in a discussion-based format. This is excellent preparation for working alongside believers from many cultures in the church's diverse future," Jenny Collins, director of the Applied Missions minor and former director of Lighthouse programs, said as she recommended the course.

Global theology is unique in that every week the student will be studying a different topic of theology — soteriology, eschatology, pneumatology etc. — in the context of a different culture and religion. For example, one of my favorite days in

class was entitled, "Christology in Islam" and had the subheading, "Is the God of Abraham the God of Muhammed?" Each class period followed suit until the student found themselves deeply versed in theological and practical knowledge of religions and cultures from all around the world.

Not only are students given quality course content, but the class is almost entirely discussion-based, allowing students to work through

difficult topics and learn with and from one another.

"It fosters priceless dialog with international Christians whose wise insights shed fresh light on God's work in our world," Edward Meadors, associate professor of biblical studies and teacher of the course, said. "I love teaching the course for its content but even more for its reminder of the joy that is ours as members of the global body of Christ."

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Photograph provided by Google

Theology changes around the world, and this class helps you to prepare for that.

“Make the most of the circumstance,’ Denny said. ‘You’ll gain experience and be an influence on other people. Don’t despair and don’t feel like you’re a failure. I cannot look back on my past and not see all that I gained.”

Pence and Trump

The vice president is tied to the president



Jessica Rousselow-Winquist

I have read all the letters sent to the editor as well as the opinion article by Ethan Rice and would like to respond to some ideas contained on this page.

I have been amazed by the number of evangelical leaders and lay people who support the Trump administration. Ethan Rice’s column sheds some light on the issue when he quotes Jerry Falwell, Jr. asserting that you don’t vote for someone because they are good . . . but because of their policies. In other words, Falwell believes the political can be divorced from the personal. I believe the personal is the political. Beliefs, values, opinions, cannot be divorced from actions, and political actions include the support for and implementation of policies. I believe it is true that we speak out of what is in our hearts, and we act on our words.

A number of letters expressed confusion about why people are upset by the appearance of the Vice President at graduation. My husband explained it very clearly in his opinion piece last week, but let me repeat, many of us are opposed to the Vice President speaking at graduation because of his deep connection to

the Trump administration. It is impossible for me to believe that one would accept an invitation to share the ticket unless you shared the values and visions of the President you are going to serve.

Several people also indicated they believe the vice president will not give a political speech. I think this is worth questioning. First, Pence has given graduation speeches before. In fact, last year he spoke at Hillsdale College commencement. Because Hillsdale is also a Christian college with a deep evangelical history, I read the text of that speech to get an idea what he might say. The speech is divided into three sections. In the first few paragraphs he compliments the institution, the administration and the students and talks about his education at a Christian college “not far from here.” The second section of the speech is political, listing all the achievements of the Trump/Pence administration in the first two years and promising they will deliver even more good things in the future. He clearly identifies with the president’s agenda. He concludes the speech by returning to the Christian ideas he began with.

Last year, the election of 2020 was two years away. This year, the President has been ramping up the campaign for his second term. The election cycle is well underway, and Trump means to win any way possible. Keeping his base intact is essential, and a significant part of that base is evangelical Christians. In my opinion, it is highly improbable that the Trump/Pence campaign would pass up this opportunity for a stump speech at an evangelical college
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Position demands respect

Pence’s position holds weight



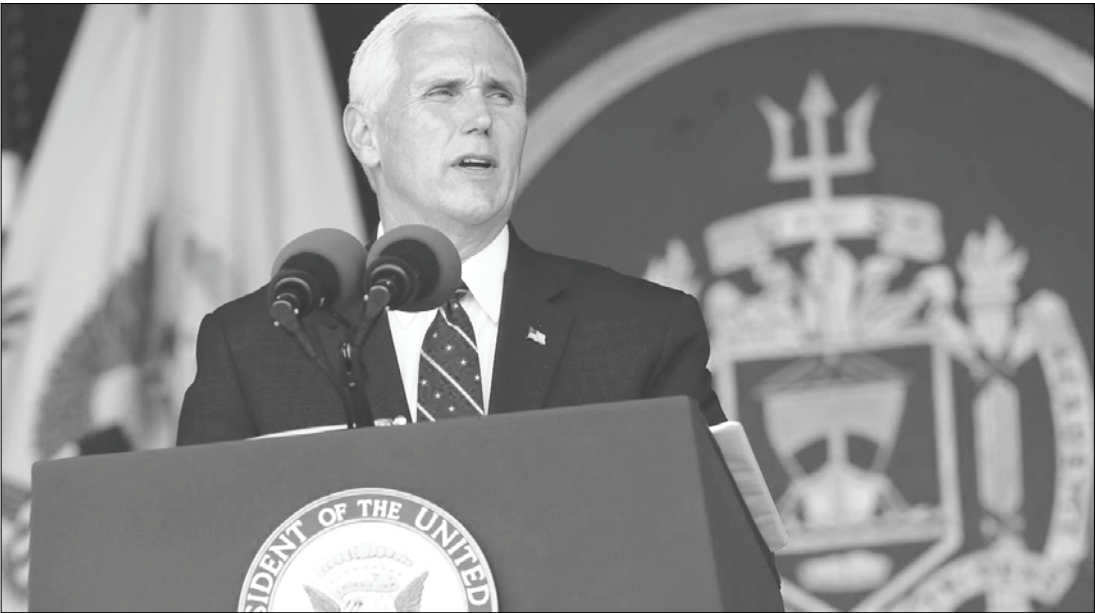
Ben Kruger Contributor

Last week, a document called “In Defense of Mike Pence” was distributed around the Student Center and DC. We tried to state our points well, without causing more controversy.

“It made your point in the right way,” Jeff Cramer, associate professor of computer science and engineering, said. I am proud to say this was the goal. I would like to elaborate more on it.

Mike Pence is a prominent public figure. He is the second-highest public official in the executive branch of the strongest country in the world. He has a record of promoting biblical values through his personal life and political agenda and has made some great progress in the state of Indiana as governor and as a Congressman. He is also very outspoken about his faith, and has spoken at many other Christian and secular schools in the past.

President Trump’s character does not represent Mike Pence’s, nor does Pence’s character represent Trump’s. Yes, they ran for their current positions together, and they probably have similar goals for their time in office, but political agreement does not equate to implicit support of character.



Photograph provided by Google

No matter what, Pence is the vice president.

I do not understand the hate from believers toward Trump and his administration. Yes, he says and does many things that are very clearly against the Bible’s teachings, and has been known for saying things that could, and often should, be considered racist and misogynistic. These are reasons I did not vote for him; I personally believe he is ill-suited for the office.

That said, our president, however unlikeable as a person, is the leader of the free world and deserves to be treated with respect. It seems many of us have forsaken the mandates for respect set forth in 1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 13:1-7 and Titus 3:1-11.

Even when we disagree with authority figures, we should still respect them, because God has put them in those positions of authority. Christians have absolute-ly no right to be offended or angry

that our university honors this biblical command. It is an honor to have Pence come and speak here, and while taking offense or being hurt by the decision is not inherently wrong, many (certainly not all) of the angry reactions I and the media have seen have been decidedly disrespectful and therefore unbiblical.

“Mike Pence is our Vice President and a man of integrity, as far as I can tell,” James Spiegel, professor of philosophy and religion, said. “Just as previous vice presidents Hubert Humphrey and Al Gore served with a severe racist (Lyndon Johnson) and deceitful adulterer (Bill Clinton), respectively, but each was nonetheless a decent, respectable man, I think the same is true of Mike Pence. And he deserves our respect when he visits campus for commencement.”

Beside that, our nation is built

upon principles of free speech. Why are we trying to get that removed from our school? Are we seriously going to try to prevent someone from speaking just because of their political affiliation? Surely we will not stoop so low. Personally, I am of the mindset that any belief is permissible in-somuch as it does not violate any teachings in scripture; any idea which can defended biblically is valid. Pence’s actions and words fit this, so while inviting him, albeit a fantastic opportunity, was probably not the best idea, I see absolutely no cause to rescind his invitation.

Summarily, much of the backlash against the invitation is ridiculous. Everyone has the right to their own opinion and to protest what they think is wrong, but we need to make sure we do that the right way.

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Dear Mr. Vice President

Thoughts for our commencement speaker



Kevin Diller Faculty Contributor

Dear Vice President Pence, As we prepare to welcome you to our campus, there have been worries in the Taylor community about your participation in Commencement. The reasons are complex, but have in part to do with the tenuous relationship that has always existed between cultural and political power and the way of Jesus. As you know, Taylor is a place that gives priority to the way of Jesus.

Taylor is also somewhat unique among institutions of higher education. We have developed over the years a humble and confident focus on the lordship of Christ over other allegiances, affiliations and honors. We have not sought to distinguish ourselves in relationship to the power of a denomination, or the attraction of a location, or even the ability to ensure the worldly success of our graduates. When we have won external validations and high rankings, we have resisted the temptation to overplay and pander to them.

We have been anchored by a dependence on the centrality of Christ for whole-person education. Our mission is simply a participation in God’s mission. What tends to distinguish us is the way we seek to live that mission in the unity of an intentional and diverse community.

These distinctives place us in an awkward position with the currents of contemporary politics. We prepare students for many callings, including to places of political influence, but the symbol we value more than their diploma is that of Christ’s servant’s towel. Even as we invite a person of political power to address our graduates, this towel reminds us that a position makes one neither great nor significant. Instead, it is in giving the powers

entrusted to us in service to God and others that the greatness and significance of God’s work is evidenced through us.

Acknowledging the lordship of Christ over all other principalities implies that the greatest honor of one’s life is not in serving an earthly leader. It implies a citizenship in the Kingdom of God, priorities that outweigh the supposed priorities of one’s own temporal nation. And, even when those priorities align, it requires a posture, disposition and a way of leadership that is consistent with the way of Jesus.

As vice president of the current administration, you represent some of the political tensions with which the American church is wrestling. The way of Jesus involves love of enemy and concern for the vulnerable. It is the ministry of reconciliation, breaking down divisions. It involves a principled commitment to morality and truth. The attitudes and rhetoric of the current administration are often at odds with the way of Jesus in these regards.

Consequently, we often feel out-of-sync with the administration you represent — and perhaps you feel this as well. You have not, however, been known for speaking against the leadership of the current administration when it conflicts with the ministry of Jesus; this gives some of us hesitation about your taking the role you will take at our commencement.

Nevertheless, as you confess to be a follower of Jesus, we will welcome you. Perhaps you will speak of a commitment to Christ that is greater in priority and honor than your affiliation with a political administration. Perhaps, as you consider what we have sought to develop in our graduates, you will clarify your own priorities and commitments so that we would know that they also align with Christ’s servant’s towel. Perhaps you will focus on God’s work in our lives, giving us a unifying vision of God’s Kingdom, inspiring our graduates to commence a life of self-giving love in a needy and divided world.

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Student explains Pence’s career history



Taylor Burns Contributor

“The selection of Pence... is deeply disappointing, for me, and many of its faculty,” Amy Peterson, adjunct professor of english, writes in the Washington Post detailing the events following the faculty meeting that announced the vice president as the commencement speaker.

“It reflects a failure of the university’s leadership to live up to its mission,” Peterson continued. She is not the only critic of the vice president speaking at graduation; many students and faculty have been critical, but as I flip through the Echo, and scroll through social media, a recurring message appears: “Vice President Pence is a Christian man; why are you protesting him?”

It seems that many on campus do not understand why people are “deeply disappointed” and why Pence does not “live up to (Taylor’s) mission.” So my hope is to create a timeline of Pence’s public life to provide a background of why people are dissenting.

I need to start by saying I am a straight, white, Hoosier male that saw the indirect impact of Pence’s policies, and my words cannot match the sentiment that marginalized people felt, but I’ll try my best.

Pence’s controversy began in 2000 when he won a seat in Congress. Two more famous moments are Pence advocating for

conversion therapy in response to the “Ryan White Care Act,” and support for “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” a law that discriminates against LGBTQ+ individuals in the military. These policies caused people harm, whether psychological or physical. While Pence claims that these policies are biblically motivated, it’s a shame that these verses were used to harm people.

In 2012, Pence won the Indiana gubernatorial race, beginning four years of discriminatory policies.

First, there was a controversial Syrian refugee ban.

“The governor of Indiana believes, though without evidence, that some of these persons were sent to Syria by ISIS to engage in terrorism and now wish to infiltrate the United States in order to commit terrorist acts here,” Indiana Judge Richard Posner said.

This policy sundered Syrian families, and as Posner said, no evidence was evident, suggesting that Pence was only inciting panic of Syrian Muslim people.

The second policy was the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Backed by many religious lobbyists, Governor Pence signed this act that included language that would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people and other minorities. Pence even said, “It was ‘absolutely not’ a mistake to sign RFRA,” even though it put “Indiana into a \$250 million economic panic” according to the Indiana Democratic Party website. This law hurt people and made them feel unloved.

Even successes for Pence were limited. His economic policies created a state surplus, but minimum wage stayed unchanged and the wealth gap increased. His education policies were

great, for suburban predominately white schools, while inner-city schools suffered. Additionally, he restricted health-care for poor Hoosier families, was unresponsive to opioid/HIV epidemics and nearly refused to provide a life saving needle exchange program, according to Gail Collins in her New York Times article.

As vice president, his colors have not changed. He was instrumental in banning transgender individuals from military service, and encouraged the president on

the Muslim ban and harsh border and immigration laws.

The truth is that Pence’s policies have hurt many people, both off and on our campus. And these pains are driven by deeply-rooted ideologies, making it nearly impossible to support him as a person from his politics. This is why we protest. A man whose career is marked by homophobia, islamophobia and bigotry does not represent Taylor’s mission, and should therefore not be giving the final message to the seniors.

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Photo provided by Google

Pence has been tied to many discriminatory policies.

ANYTHING YOU’D LIKE TO ADD?

Guest Columns
600 word limit
3 local, expert sources required

Letters to the Editor
200 word limit
No sources required
Include your year

Please direct submissions to **jed_barber@taylor.edu**
All submissions are due **Sunday at midnight**
THE ECHO only accepts column submissions from current faculty, staff and students.

Men’s golf preparing for Nationals, bracing for the future

The Trojans will be losing three top players to graduation after tournament

Andrew Nevins
Sports Editor

The Taylor men’s golf team won its fourth straight Crossroads League title last week at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend, Indiana.

The golfing was tough due to the cold and wet conditions, but the Trojans managed to finish day one atop the leaderboard and maintained that position through round two to win with a nine-shot victory.

Freshman Lucas Beck had a breakout performance, claiming his first collegiate victory with a two-day total of 145 (+1) and an even par 72 in round two. He became the third different Trojan to win the Crossroads League individual title in four years.

“Four straight is something that not a lot of people can say that they’ve done in any sport at any level,” senior Jeremy Ray said. “Winning four straight was definitely one of my main goals coming into the year . . . It’s pretty incredible, I’m kinda at a loss for words and I don’t know how to describe it but it’s just pretty incredible.”

Four years ago, the Trojans were a young and talented but inexperienced team. They managed to pull it together and make an unexpected run to win the Crossroads League that catapulted them into being the team to beat in the conference.

Coach Cam Andry is hoping for that same type of success next season as he’s losing three top players in Ray, Alec Dutkowski, and Scottie Marston to graduation.

“We won’t replace them,” Andry said. “Obviously their ability on the course, but even just the intangibles that they bring, you know, big, big shoes to fill, but we have some talented



The Taylor men’s golf team poses with their 2019 Crossroads League Championship banner.

Photograph provided by Taylor University

guys waiting in the wings and we have some talented incoming guys.”

However, the Trojans can’t be distracted by looking too far ahead to next season, as they still have the NAIA National Tournament coming up at Las Sendas Golf Club in Mesa, Arizona.

The team placed inside the top 10 last year but Ray feels as if they have the potential to place much higher, if not win.

“I feel like we have as good a chance as any,” Ray said. “We were fortunate enough to be able to compete down at The Farm in Georgia where twelve of the top fifteen teams in the country were playing on a really hard course, so we were able to really get a glimpse of what it took.”

Ray added that he believes the team is playing its best golf down the stretch. However, he

said they need to make sure that they’re still working hard in practice and starting to prepare mentally and physically for the hot and dry conditions of Arizona.

Andry believes that his team has what it takes to be competitive with the top teams in country, and is looking forward to playing on the challenging Las Sendas course.

“If we play well we could be in the hunt to win it,” Andry said. “But you get out there and there are so many good teams and so many good players that if you don’t play well every day, you’re not gonna be in the hunt.”

The seniors will walk the course for the last time in Trojan purple when the four-day tournament tees off on May 21st. them’ but you can’t think that way you have to just come with your own game.”

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Junior Nate Morris takes a swing during the Crossroads League Championship.

Photograph provided by Taylor University



Photograph by Brad Timmerman

Sophomore Drake Gongwer pitches during Taylor's deep tournament run.



Photograph by Brad Timmerman

Sophomore Kole Barkhaus was solid form the mound in Taylor's win against Goshen.

WEEKLY PREVIEW

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD

- 5/10 NCC Invitational (A) 5 pm
- 5/23 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm
- 5/24 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm
- 5/25 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm

MEN’S GOLF

- 5/21 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/22 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/23 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/24 NAIA National Championship (A)

SOFTBALL

- 5/13 Hope International (A) 2 pm
- 5/14 TBA (A)
- 5/15 TBA (A)

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

- 5/10 NCC Invitational (A) 5 pm
- 5/23 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm
- 5/24 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm
- 5/25 NAIA National Championship (A) 2 pm

WOMEN’S GOLF

- 5/21 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/22 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/23 NAIA National Championship (A)
- 5/24 NAIA National Championship (A)

SCOREBOARD

RESULTS FROM TAYLOR ATHLETICS

Baseball

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 5/3 IWU | W 6-4 |
| 5/4 Grace | L 6-3 |
| 5/6 IWU | W 7-3 |
| 5/6 Goshen | W 6-2 |
| 5/7 Marian | L 3-0 |

Men’s Track & Field

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 5/3 CL Championship | 2nd of 10 |
|---------------------|-----------|

Women’s Track & Field

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 5/3 CL Championship | 2nd of 10 |
|---------------------|-----------|

Softball

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 5/3 IWU | W 2-0 |
|---------|-------|

Maddi Evans

SOFTBALL



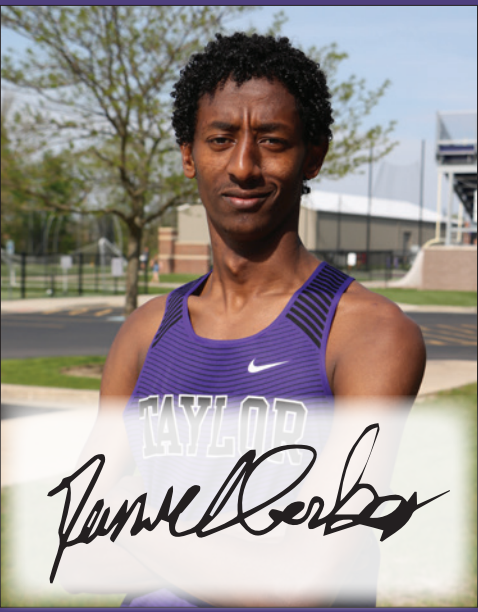
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FRESHMAN	Year	SOPHOMORE
FAIRMOUNT, IN	Hometown	DANVILLE, IN
BIOLOGY PRE-MED	Major	PPE w/ SYSTEMS AND BIB. STUDIES
THIRD BASE/PITCHER	Position	1500M AND 800M
ABBY SMITH	Funniest Teammate	HUNTER SMITH
ANYTHING COUNTRY	Favorite Pregame Song	WALIA- TEDY AFRO

Daniel Gerber

TRACK & FIELD



Photographs by Brad Timmerman